Government and 427 Private licensed Blood Banks functioning in our country.

(b) All these blood banks are capable of carrying HIV tests.

(c) As per reports available the HIV transmission by transfusion of blood and blood products ranges between 6-8 per cent. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act/ Rules provide necessary testing of blood for Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus (FIV). This is being monitored by Drugs Controller General (India) and State through inspection of blood banks for grant/renewal of Blood Bank licence.

(d) The average cost of testing of blood before approximately comes to Rs. 300-350 per unit.

(e) To help Blood Banks to build up their capabilities to make safe blood available for poor people for the medicare programme, the Blood Safety Component of National AIDS Control Programme, presently under implementation, provides assistance in the form of cash and commodity.

Withdrawal of Anti-Allergic Drugs from the Market

3260. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some anti-allergic drugs have been withdrawn from the market if so, which are the drugs or their combinations and since when;

(b) whether warning notices are being carried on packages of each drugs; and

(c) details of the companies marketing these drugs and what steps have been taken to implement the orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Recently, State Licensing Authorities have been advised to ask units manufacturing Terfenadine formulation, a new antihistamine to incorporate a warning about the reported adverse reactions of the drug in the package insert and other literature.

(c) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

AIDS Fund Released to the North-East Region

3261. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) amount of AIDS funds released to the North-East Region on State-wise basis separately to NGOs and State Government;

(b) whether the funds released are properly monitored;

(c) number of Blood Banks now opened in the North-East Region on State-wise basis;

(d) amount of AIDS fund allotted to each Blood Bank; and

(e) whether the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) funded by Home Ministry through NEC can be provided the fund directly not through State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) a list of N.G.Os who have been provided funds for creating awareness on HIV/AIDS in North-East Region is enclosed at statement (*see* below). A statement showing funds allocated to the North-Eastern States is enclosed at Statement II (*see* below).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 1. Arunachal Pradesh — 7
2. Assam — 44
3. Manipur — 04
4. Meghalaya — 05
5. Mizoram — 05